



**NEW ENGLAND
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items
2009**

**Grade 5
Reading**

Reading

❶ Which word **best** describes something that is almost invisible?

- A. tiny
- B. small
- C. undersized
- D. microscopic

❷ The suffix *-less* in the words helpless and careless means

- A. most.
- B. tiny.
- C. some.
- D. without.

Read this passage about a young boy's hope of catching a big fish. Then answer the questions that follow.

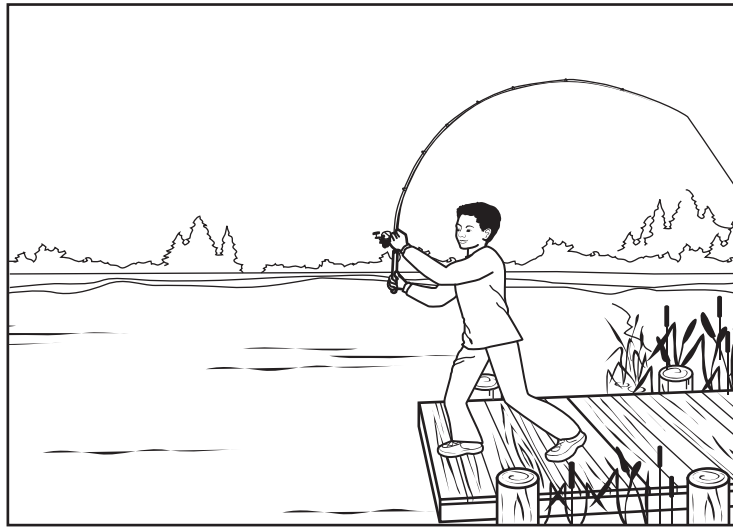
The Biggest Fish in the Lake

by Margaret Carney

I must have been dreaming about catching a fish, for I woke with a start at dawn. Slipping on my sweater, I went out to the porch without waking Grandpa.

2 The sky was pearly pink and the air was still. The lake was like smooth gray satin—until all at once, at the end of the dock, a big fish churned the water.

I grabbed my fishing rod and raced down to the shore. Tiptoeing onto the dock, I cast toward where the fish had jumped, and started slowly reeling in my line.

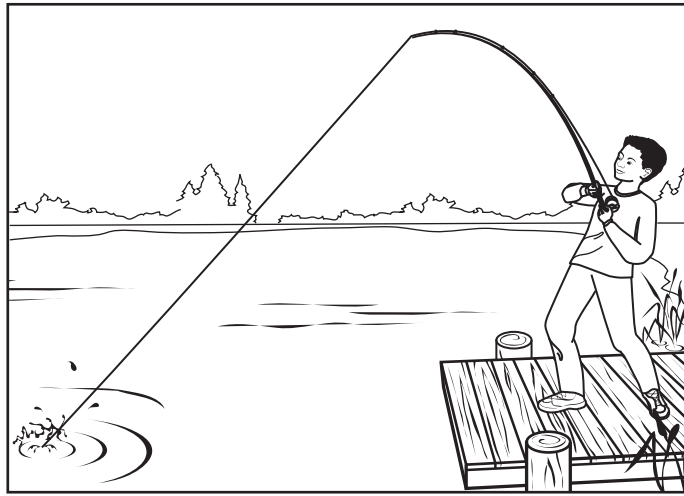


Nothing happened.

I cast to the right and again reeled in.

Taking a deep breath, I cast a third time, toward the weeds near the shore.

With a sudden jerk, my rod flew forward, nearly yanked from my hands. Then my reel was screaming as the line played out. The huge fish had grabbed my lure and was swimming away with it. I could feel the creature's power as it swam—straight toward the weeds, where it could tangle the line and escape.



I planted my feet and pulled back as hard as I could. If I reeled in too quickly, the fish would break the line.

- 9** Slowly I wound in a bit, then let the fish swim out. I drew it in again and let it run the other way. Back and forth it darted, tugging on my line, until my arms grew tired.

But the fish was tiring, too.

When I finally reeled it in close enough to glimpse, I almost dropped my rod. This fish wasn't stout and muscular like a bass—it was long and slim, with a narrow snout and sharp teeth.

And it was *big*! It was a muskie!

I didn't have a net, so I carefully drew the muskie along the dock toward shore, keeping tension on the line like Grandpa taught me. When I got the fish to the shallows, I jumped into the water right behind it.

With a flip of its tail, the muskie leaped away toward the beach. Half in and half out of the water, it lay on its side, panting.

- 15** Heart pounding, I stared in wonder at the fish, from its glaring eye to its long fanned tail. I couldn't wait to show it to Grandpa. He'd be so proud of me! I had caught the biggest fish in the lake—a mighty muskie!

One scoop of my arms could land it. I bent forward, then froze. The muskie was so magnificent – so powerful and sleek.

Suddenly I wasn't sure I wanted to keep it.

3 In paragraph 2, the setting can be **best** described as

- A. gloomy.
- B. calm.
- C. dangerous.
- D. secretive.

4 In paragraph 9, the word darted means that the fish

- A. waited alone.
- B. grew bigger.
- C. looked closely.
- D. moved quickly.

5 What is the **most likely** reason that the boy is surprised when he gets the fish close?

- A. It is bigger than he expects.
- B. It is leaping toward the beach.
- C. It is still trying to get away.
- D. It is swimming in the water.

6 In paragraph 15, the phrase “heart pounding” means that the boy is

- A. excited about catching the fish.
- B. surprised the fish is tired.
- C. anxious Grandpa may miss the fish.
- D. nervous the fish may swim away.

7 Describe the struggle between the boy and the fish. Use details from the passage to support your answer.

Read this recipe for a kind of bread from medieval times (Middle Ages). Then answer the questions that follow.

A Delight! Rose Petal Bread

by Avery Hart and Paul Mantell

Ask an adult to help with this recipe.

This delicately flavored medieval bread is truly fit for a king or queen!

YOU WILL NEED:

For two loaves

- **1 package active dry yeast**
- **1½ cups (375 ml) lukewarm rose water**
- **1 tablespoon (15 ml) sugar**
- **2 teaspoons (10 ml) salt**
- **3–4 cups (750 ml–1L) flour**
- **Cornmeal and butter**
- **Food dye (color)**
- **1 egg white**

To begin, make the rose water by simmering rose petals in a small amount of water. Then, remove the petals.

In a large bowl, dissolve the yeast in the rose water. Stir sugar, salt, and some flour into the yeast. With clean hands, knead (push and pull) the dough. Add more and more flour until it won't take anymore.

Push the dough around on a floured board. When the dough becomes smooth and elastic, cover the bowl with a clean cloth, and go play for an hour!



When you return, the dough will be bigger. Punch down the dough, and divide it in half.

Form each half into a circle, oval, heart, or long loaf. Place the loaves on separate buttered baking sheets that are sprinkled with cornmeal.

Next comes the art part.

Mix a food color with a little bit of egg white to make “paint.” Paint vines, leaves, flowers, snakes, or any other art on the top of the loaves.

Bake in a preheated oven for 40 minutes at 400°F (200°C).

Delicious!



8 In the recipe, the dough gets bigger when it

- A. is stirred.
- B. is pushed.
- C. has time to rest.
- D. has enough water.

9 A synonym (same meaning) for the word divide is

- A. block.
- B. spread.
- C. damage.
- D. separate.

10 What should be done **before** the loaves are placed on the baking sheets?

- A. The baking sheets should be heated in the oven.
- B. A design should be created on the tops of the loaves.
- C. Butter and cornmeal should be put on the baking sheets.
- D. The loaves should be checked for enough sugar, salt, and flour.

11 Which sentence is an **opinion**?

- A. "This delicately flavored medieval bread is truly fit for a king or queen!"
- B. "With clean hands, knead (push and pull) the dough."
- C. "When the dough becomes smooth and elastic, cover the bowl with a clean cloth, and go play for an hour!"
- D. "Mix a food color with a little bit of egg white to make 'paint.'"

12 Explain how the pictures make the recipe easier to follow. Use information from the recipe to support your answer.

Acknowledgments

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